



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Director of Children and Family Services

At its meeting held May 10, 2005, the Board took the following action:

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Supervisor Knabe made the following statement:

“In accordance with the Department of Children and Family Services’ (DCFS) goal of reducing its reliance on detention of children as a means of ensuring child safety, today we have before us a request to amend existing County contracts with Community Family Preservation Network (CFPN) providers to allow for the provision of Alternative Response Services (ARS) to families. Historically, DCFS referred only those families to community-based Family Preservation services for whom DCFS had determined that allegations of child abuse/neglect were ‘substantiated.’ Currently, through the ARS program of early intervention Family Preservation services, DCFS will refer those families who may be experiencing difficulties in family functioning to receive community-based Family Preservation services, rather than DCFS supervision, after DCFS determines that specific allegations of suspected child abuse/neglect are ‘inconclusive.’ The goal of providing these community-based services is the prevention of future reports of child abuse/neglect and/or DCFS case openings.

“Since County and community partnerships are the cornerstone for effective strengthening of the families we serve, I am interested in the outcomes of this model approach.”

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, seconded by Supervisor Yaroslavsky, unanimously carried, the Director of Children and Family Services was instructed to report back to the Board within one year on the outcomes of the Alternative Response Services (ARS) program, specifically on the number of families referred to ARS, and also the rate of future reports of child abuse/neglect and Department case openings for those families who completed the ARS program.

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